

REMARKS

Claims 1-6, 13, and 15-18 have been examined, and claims 13, 15, and 17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). Also, the Examiner has indicated that claims 1-6, 16, and 18 have been allowed.

I. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) to U.S.P. 938,885 to McCulley (“McCulley”)

Claims 13 and 17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by McCulley. As a preliminary matter, Applicant realized that the term “170 cm” should read --170 cm tall-- and has amended the claim to correct the error. Clearly, such amendment does not narrow the scope of the claim or raise any Festo implications.

In the previous Amendment filed on January 31, 2002, Applicant argued that claim 13 was patentable over McCulley because the reference does not suggest a sheet feeding area that is positioned at a height at which a user, who is approximately 170 cm tall and standing erect in front of the printer, can set up a printing medium without having to bend substantially at the waist. On page 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner responds to such arguments. Specifically, he states that, even if the McCulley device is placed substantially at ground level, a user (who is approximately 170 cm tall and standing erect) can still set up a printing medium without having to bend substantially at the waist if the user is standing below the ground level (i.e. standing in a dugout). Although Applicant submits that the Examiner’s counter argument is quite imaginative and may arguably be based on hindsight, Applicant has amended the claim to state that the user is standing substantially at the ground level to expedite prosecution.

In light of the discussion above, Applicant submits that it is patentably distinct from the McCulley reference. Also, since claim 17 depends upon amended claim 13, it is patentable at least by virtue of its dependency.

II. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S.P. 2,300,276 to Hageman (“Hageman”)

Claim 15 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Hageman. Applicant submits that the claim is patentable over Hageman.

For example, as recited in the claim, the cover member is disposed between the sheet of paper and the roll of paper, at a location in the sheet feeding area at which the roll of paper is in a rolled shape. Since such limitation clearly does not read on the “cover member 42” of Hageman, Applicant submits that the claim is patentable.

III. Allowable subject matter

The Examiner has allowed claims 1-6, 16, and 18.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No. 09/386,000

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Grant K. Rowan", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

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APPENDIX
VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims are amended as follows:

13. (Four times amended) A large printer comprising:

a sheet feeding area positioned at a height at which a user, who is approximately 170 cm tall [and standing erect in front of the printer], can set up a printing medium without having to bend substantially at the waist when the user is standing erect in front of the printer and standing substantially at ground level,

wherein the sheet feeding area is positioned at the height when the printer is placed substantially at the ground level, and

wherein a plurality of paper rolls are loaded in the sheet feeding area so as to be arranged obliquely relative to each other in the vertical direction.

15. (Four times amended) A large printer comprising:

a sheet feeding area including at least one roll of paper and at least one sheet of paper;
and

a cover member, which covers a first feeding path for the roll of paper from above, and which supports the sheet of paper from below to constitute a part of a second feeding path for the sheet of paper,

wherein the cover member extends linearly from an upstream portion thereof to a downstream portion thereof in connection with a direction in which the sheet of paper is fed, and

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wherein the cover member is disposed between the sheet of paper and the roll of paper at
a location in the sheet feeding area at which the roll of paper is in a rolled shape.